REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1, 2, 7 and 8, and leaves claims 3-6 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0030740 to Stelting. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 1-8 are not taught or suggested by Stelting whether taken individually or in combination any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a method for supporting a combination of programs using a computer as recited, for example, in independent claim 1, a program development support method as recited, for example, in independent claim 2, a program development support apparatus as recited, for example, in independent claim 7, and a computer-readable storage medium for executing a method for supporting a combination of programs as recited, for example, in independent claim 8.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8, provides a method for supporting a combination of programs using a computer. The method includes steps of causing the computer to read from work

flow definition information of a storage unit, causing the computer to set kinds of screens in a source and destination, and a display flow of the screens, in accordance with a relationship between source and destination work flow definition information for producing screen flow definition information, and causing the computer to store the screen flow definition information into the storage unit in accordance with the read setting. In accordance with the screen flow definition information and work-to-service correspondence definition information stored in the storage unit in advance and indicating correspondence of each work to a program providing each service used in the work, the method includes creating an input/output screen for executing a program providing the service corresponding to each work. The method further includes a step of outputting an execution result of the program providing the service using the input/output screen in accordance with the screen flow definition information and the work-to-service correspondence definition information. The prior art does not disclose all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Stelting, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Stelting teaches a method and system for automating generation of web services from existing service components. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Stelting of the method for supporting a combination of programs using a computer as recited in claim 1 of the present invention, the program development support method as recited in claim 2 of the present invention, the program

development support apparatus as recited in claim 7 of the present invention, or the computer-readable storage medium for executing a method for supporting a combination of programs as recited in independent claim 8 of the present invention.

Stelting discloses a computer-based method for generating a Web service. The method includes identifying first and second service components for inclusion in the Web service, which includes locating available services using service detectors that use differing search techniques, and displaying the located services to the user to allow the user to make a selection to identify the first and second service components. The method continues with generating a description or contract for the Web service defining service behavior including invoking rules. A transport structure is then created for accessing the new Web service such as a transmission envelope. The Web service is advertised as being available on the communications network including registering the Web service with a services registry linked to the communications network.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8, includes steps of causing the computer to read from work flow definition information of a storage unit, causing the computer to set kinds of screens in a source and destination, and a display flow of the screens, in accordance with a relationship between source and destination work flow definition information for producing screen flow definition information, and causing the computer to store the screen flow definition information into the storage unit in accordance with the read setting. Stelting does not disclose this feature. As described in paragraphs [0026] and [0027], Stelting is directed to a Web services

developer system 130 that includes components used to locate existing services and Web services, and to generate new Web services based on one or more of these located existing services, where the system is implemented using a graphical user interface device. This is quite different from the present invention. For example, generating new Web services based on existing services, as in Stelting, is not the same as setting a display flow of the screens, in accordance with a relationship between source and destination work flow definition information for producing screen flow definition information, as in the present invention. That is to say, Stelting does not teach or suggest the setting a display flow of screens, as claimed.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8, includes where in accordance with the screen flow definition information and work-to-service correspondence definition information stored in the storage unit in advance and indicating correspondence of each work to a program providing each service used in the work, the method includes creating an input/output screen for executing a program providing the service corresponding to each work. Stelting does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Stelting teaches this feature, the Examiner appears to cite paragraphs [0026], [0027], [0029], and [0034], and Fig. 6 (i.e., it is unclear whether the Examiner provided the citations for this limitation and the subsequent limitation, or for the subsequent limitation alone). However, neither the cited text nor any other portions of Stelting teach or suggest the claimed features. For example, as previously discussed, Stelting does not disclose the use of screen flow definition information. Furthermore, Stelting does not disclose work-to-service correspondence definition

information indicating correspondence of each work to a program providing each service used in the work, as in the present invention. The cited text merely describes the selection of the available services located by a service detector for a number of existing services to be included in the new Web service being created by the system of Stelting. Fig. 6 is merely illustrates an input box 570 that is created by the user interface 132 to prompt a developer or operator to identify input and output values and characteristics that the invoking agent 142 can use in creating invoking code. Once the developer has selected specific services for inclusion in the new Web service or composite service, the developer can specify the required inputs for each of the selected services. As shown in FIG. 6, a GUI window 570 displays the inputs and outputs for a service. It displays the data type for the input 576, 586 and output 593 values. It prompts the developer for a first input at box 574, for the source 578 of the data, and the value 580. Likewise, the GUI window 570 prompts the developer for a second input at box 584, for the source 588 of the data, and the value 590. In this manner, input and output mapping information is received from the developer for each input and output for each of the selected services in step 240. Navigation buttons 594, 596, 597, and 598 are provided to move within the process 200 and/or to terminate the process 200. The inputs may originate from a number of sources (with available sources being displayed in pull down lists at 578, 588) including, but not limited to, literal value inputs such as programmer or system administrator input, output values from other services (within the particular new Web service or other existing services), inputs from a user or client of the Web service, and/or other input sources. These features of Stelting, as described in paragraph

[0037], are quite different from the present invention. Unlike the present invention, there is no use of screen flow definition information or work-to-service correspondence definition information, as in the present invention.

Yet another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8, includes a step of outputting an execution result of the program providing the service using the input/output screen in accordance with the screen flow definition information and the work-to-service correspondence definition information. Stelting does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Stelting teaches this feature, the Examiner cite paragraphs [0026], [0027], [0029], and [0034], and Fig. 6. However, as previously discussed, Stelting does not teach or suggest the screen flow definition information or work-to-service correspondence definition information, as in the present invention. Accordingly, Stelting is not the same as the present invention.

Therefore, Stelting fails to teach or suggest "making said computer read from work flow definition information of a storage unit, set kinds of screens in a source and destination, and a display flow of said screens, in accordance with a relationship between source and destination work flow definition information for producing screen flow definition information, and store said screen flow definition information into said storage unit in accordance with said read setting" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8.

Furthermore, Stelting fails to teach or suggest "in accordance with said screen flow definition information and work-to-service correspondence definition information stored in said storage unit in advance and indicating correspondence of each work to

a program providing each service used in said work, creating an input/output screen for executing a program providing said service corresponding to each work" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8.

Even further, Stelting fails to teach or suggest "outputting an execution result of said program providing said service using said input/output screen in accordance with said screen flow definition information and said work-to-service correspondence definition information" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 2, 7 and 8.

Therefore, Stelting does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 1-8. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1-8 as being anticipated by Stelting are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 1-8.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing Attorney Docket No. 500.42881X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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